

**STATE OF KANSAS**  
**ANIMAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
708 SW Jackson, Topeka, Kansas 66603-3714  
Phone 785/296-2326 Fax 785/296-1765  
[www.kansas.gov/kaht](http://www.kansas.gov/kaht)

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## **Licensing Information Sheet**

**A hobby breeder license is required when:**

- (a) All or part of 3, 4, or 5 litters, and 29 or fewer dogs, cats (or both) are produced for sale, sold, offered or maintained for sale. Sale of even one puppy or kitten counts as a litter.

**An animal breeder license is required when:**

- (a) All or part of 6 or more litters of dogs or cats (or both) are sold, or offered or maintained for sale, primarily at wholesale (to pet stores and distributors)

**OR**

- (b) When 30 or more dogs or cats (or both) are sold, or offered or maintained for sale, primarily (more than 50%) at wholesale. This means, for example, if an individual sold three litters of Golden Retrievers, to a distributor, (for a total of 28 pups) and then sold two adult dogs, an animal breeder license would be required.

**Retail breeder license requirements are exactly the same as animal breeder requirements** except more than 50% of the sales will be at retail, i.e., to the final consumer. This includes individuals who sell dogs or cats through word of mouth, classified ads, at breed shows, the Internet, swap meets, auctions etc.

**An animal distributor license** is required for individuals engaged in the business of buying and selling dogs and cats for resale. For example, a distributor license is required to buy an animal from a breeder and resell it to a pet shop.

**Pet Shops: Every pet shop in the state of Kansas must have a license with the Kansas Animal Health Department. Pet shops are:**

- (a) Any premise selling animals which were not raised on the premise. This does **not** include:
1. animal breeders, retail breeders, hobby breeders or distributors;
  2. pounds and shelters;
  3. any premise selling only the offspring of breeding stock (other than dogs or cats) that are produced and raised on the premise by a person who resides on the premise; or
  4. Premises selling only fish.

**Boarding or training kennels: Each premise operating as a kennel must obtain a license to do so. Kennel operator is defined as:**

- (a). Any person who operates an establishment where four or more dogs or cats, or both, are maintained in any one week for boarding, training or similar purposes for a fee or compensation.  
(includes doggy daycare)

**Licensed veterinarians** are exempt from kennel operator (boarding) licensing requirements.

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**Pounds and Shelters: Each premise acting as a pound and/or animal shelter must obtain a pound and shelter license. Pounds and shelters are defined as:**

- (a) a facility used to house, contain, impound or harbor any seized stray, homeless, relinquished or abandoned animal, or
- (b) a person who acts as an animal rescuer or who collects and cares for unwanted animals or offers them for adoption, or
- (c) a facility of an **individual** or organization maintaining 20 or more dogs or cats, or both, for the purpose of collecting, accumulating, amassing or maintaining the animals or offering the animals for adoption.

Pounds and Shelters also include Foster Homes, Rescue Homes and Group Foster Homes. These are defined as:

Foster Home – A person who temporarily cares for animals belonging to a pound or shelter.

Rescue Home – A person who rescues a specific breed of dog/cat or a certain species.

Group Home – Two or more individuals that house relinquished animals at their homes or who attempt to place the animals in permanent homes through pet adoptions or similar means.

**Licensed veterinarians** are exempt from pound and shelter licensing requirements if the pound and shelter is operated from a veterinary clinic. Even though licensing is not required, veterinarians operating a pound or animal shelter from their clinic must comply with the statutory three day holding period, the requirement that the pound operator attempt to notify the owner of the animal if the owner is known or reasonably ascertainable (K.S.A. 47-1710), euthanasia requirements (K.S.A. 47-1718) and spaying and neutering requirements (K.S.A. 47-1731).

**Research facilities: All research facilities are required to obtain a license. Research facility is defined as:**

- (a) Any place, laboratory or institution, where any scientific test, experiment or investigation involving the use of any living animal is carried out, conducted or attempted. Research facilities do not include:
  - (1). Elementary schools, secondary schools or universities.

**Note: zoning.** Individuals wishing to start an animal facility should check local zoning ordinances before doing so. Even if you are granted a state license, local-zoning ordinances will control.

**No license is required to:**

- (a) Produce and sell only 1 or 2 litters of puppies or kittens a year (between July 1 and June 30) and you maintain fewer than 20 dogs/cats.
- (b) Raise and sell only racing greyhounds registered with the National Greyhound Association of Abilene, Kansas.
- (c) Sell only the offspring of breeding stock (other than dogs or cats) that are produced and sold from the premises where you live. This includes, but is not limited to, the offspring of birds, reptiles and exotic mammals.
- (d) Sell only fish.

**USDA LICENSING INFORMATION PHONE NUMBER: (970) 494-7478**

Please contact if you are selling: wholesale to brokers or pet shops, OR a pet shop wishing to sell pocket pets.